



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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TO: Missouri Controlled Substance Registrants

FROM: Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD)
MO Department of Health and Senior Services

DATE: September 26, 2014

RE: Changes in recent controlled substance laws

DEA Reschedules Hydrocodone Products to Schedule II:

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced they are re-scheduling hydrocodone drug products from Schedule III into Schedule II. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 22, 2014. The new rule goes into effect on October 6, 2014, at which time the handling of all hydrocodone products including but not limited to handling, labeling, and dispensing must comply with the requirements for Schedule II controlled substances. Prescriptions that were issued before October 6, 2014, while the drug products were still in Schedule III, may have their refills honored and dispensed. The dispensing on these refills cannot go past their 6 month date in April 2015. Additional information for the rescheduling of hydrocodone is available at the DEA website www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

Rescheduling of Hydrocodone Products in Missouri:

The dispensing and prescribing laws in Missouri are not in a regulation that the BNDD can amend. The dispensing limits are set in statute, Section 195.060.1, RSMo, which states that no Schedule II prescriptions may be refilled.

New DEA Rules for Disposing of Unwanted Controlled Substances:

The DEA published their final rule for the disposal of controlled substances in the *Federal Register* on September 9, 2014. This new rule goes into effect on October 9, 2014.

The BNDD is reviewing state laws relating to controlled substances to determine the effect of the new federal regulations. Registrants should consult their legal counsel for questions with state controlled substance laws and the registrants' practice acts as well as federal controlled substance laws.

Please note, that § 195.070, RSMo, prohibits practitioners from accepting unused controlled substances from patients unless the practitioner originally dispensed the drug.

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